

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 052410

66-60

ORIGIN EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 OMB-01 RSC-01 /041 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL:GMT

APPROVED BY EA:MSTEARNS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052410

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EAID,MASS, VS

SUBJECT: PRESS INTERVIEW: MILITARY AID

FOR AMB. MARTIN EYES ONLY FROM STEARNS

BY SEPTEL WE ARE SENDING YOU FULL TEXT OF MC COMBS' ARTICLE
IN WASHINGTON POST MARCH 15 COVERING YOUR PRESS INTERVIEW
YESTERDAY. MC COMBS REPORTS THAT QUOTE ON THE OTHER HAND,
MARTIN SAID, U.S. MILITARY AID -- ABOUT 1.06 (REPEAT 1.06)
BILLION DOLLARS IN 1974 -- SHOULD REMAIN AT ITS PRESENT
LEVEL FOR ANOTHER YEAR AND THEN TAPER OFF UNQUOTE. WE
ASSUME THAT 1.06 BILLION DOLLARS FIGURE IS MISREPORTED
SINCE, AS YOU KNOW, THIS DOES NOT REPRESENT THE FULL FUNDING
WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN FY 1974. HEARINGS ARE CURRENTLY BEING
CONDUCTED IN WHICH DOD IS ATTEMPTING TO JUSTIFY INCREASE IN
TOA CEILING TO 1.6 BILLION. WITNESSES ARE LIKELY TO BE
QUESTIONED ON POST INTERVIEW AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY
BE ABLE TO SAY THAT YOU ARE FULLY CONVINCED OF NEED FOR
1.6 BILLION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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